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Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 130231

TOSEC 345

TAGS: PFOR PO
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH GENERAL SPINOLA
WHITE HOUSE PASS TO AIR FORCE ONE FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

1. PLEASE ADD FOLLOWING BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION TO PRESIDENT BRIEFING BOOK FOR JUNE 19; MEETING WITH GEN. SPINOLA:

2. DR. FRANCISCO DE SA CARNEIRO, MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO. APPOINTED MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO ON MAY 16, 1974. DR. SA CARNEIRO WAS BORN IN OPORTO, ON NOVEMBER 14, 1932, AND GRADUATED IN LAW AT THE LISBON UNIVERSITY IN 1956 WITH DISTINCTION. HE HAS DEVOTED HIS CAREER TO LAW PRACTICE IN OPORTO WHERE HE RESIDES. DIRECTOR OF "REVISTA DOS TRIBUNAIS", HE HAS PUBLISHED IMPORTANT STUDIES ON MARRIAGE DISSOLUTION IN RELATION TO THE CONCORDAT, AND ON THE CIVIL CODE, AND IN ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF "COOPERATIVA CONFRONTO". WITH MARCELLO CAETANO AS PREMIER IN 1968, DR. SA CARNEIRO BELIEVED IN A POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL OPENING WHICH LED HIM TO PARTICIPATE AS DEPUTY IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S 10TH LEGISLATURE IN 1969. HE BELONGED TO THE "LIBERAL
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WING" AND DEFENDED CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS. HIS

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PERFORMANCE, TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER LIBERALS, WAS THE MOST AGITATED DURING THE LAST 47 YEARS OF THAT REGIME AND HIS INTERVENTION IN THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE "CASE OF THE CHAPEL OF RATO" WOULD BECOME FAMOUS.

HE WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE PERMA-
NENT COMMITTEE ON POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION AND OF THE EVENTUAL COMMITTEE FOR THE STUDY OF CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION.

3. GENERAL MANUEL DIOGO NETO, MEMBER OF JUNTA OF NATIONAL SALVATION. GENERAL NETO, THE YOUNGEST GENERAL IN THE PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE
WAS BORN IN LISBON ON JANUARY
16, 1924. HE JOINED THE PORTUGUESE ARMY AS A VOLUNTEER IN 1943, AND TRANSFERRED TO THE AIR FORCE FOUR YEARS LATER. HE ROSE RAPIDLY THROUGH THE RANKS, AND BY 1962, WHEN PROMOTED TO COLONEL, WAS EXERCISING COMMAND RESPON-
SIBILITIES. COLONEL NETO, WHO ATTENDED TRAINING COURSES IN THE US AND GERMANY, WAS MADE COMMANDER OF THE CAPE VERDE AND GUINEA-BISSAU AIR ZONE (UNDER GENERAL SPINOLA) IN SEPTEMBER 1968 AFTER COMPLETION OF A TWO-YEAR COMMAND COURSE AT THE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER MILITARY STUDIES.

IN 1973 COLONEL NETO WAS PROMOTED TO BRIGADIER AND TRANSFERRED TO MOZAMBIQUE AS COMMANDER OF THE THIRD AIR REGION THERE. SHORTLY BEFORE GENERAL SPINOLA LEFT HIS JOB AS GOVERNOR AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN GUINEA, GENERAL NETO WAS CALLED BACK TO LISBON FOR CONSULTATIONS (JULY 10, 1973) WITH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER CAETANO.

CAETANO, APPARENTLY ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, OFFERED NETO THE JOB OF GOVERNOR OF GUINEA, WHICH , WITH SPINOLA'S DEPARTURE, WOULD BE SEPARATED OUT FROM THE CINC JOB. NETO BECAME A MEMBER OF THE JUNTA FOLLOWING THE APRIL 25 COUP.

PERSONAL LIFE: THE GENERAL IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER MARIA NATALIA GOMES MACHADO BENEVIDES, AND THEY HAVE
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TWO GROWN CHILDREN, NUNO MANUEL AND MARIA MANUELA. NETO REPORTEDLY HAS EXCELLENT MANNERS, CONDUCTS HIMSELF WELL IN MIXED COMPANY, AND SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH HE ENJOYS HUNTING AND OUTDOOR SPORTS. HE IS VERY FRIENDLY, IS AT EASE WITH FOREIGNERS, AND IS CONSIDERED PRO-AMERICAN. THE GENERAL HOLDS NUMEROUS MILITARY DECORATIONS, INCLUDING THE PRESTIGIOUS MILITARY ORDER OF THE TOWER AND SWORD.

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4. JOAO HALL THEMIDO, PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON:
JOAO THEMIDO, 48 WAS APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED

STATES IM SEPTEMBER 1971. PRIOR TO THIS ASSIGNMENT
HE HAD SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO ITALY AND MALTA (1968-71)
AND AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY (1964-68). A HARD-WORKING
CAREER DIPLOMAT, THEMIDO IS FREQUENTLY MENTIONED AS
A POSSIBLE FUTURE FOREIGN MINISTER.

AN ARTICULATE DEFENDER OF THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT
LINE ON THE FUTURE OF PORTUGUESE AFRICA,-THEMIDO
APPARENTLY ACCEPTS AND SUPPORTS THE CONCEPT OF PORTUGAL'S
CIVILIZING MISSION IN ITS OVERSEAS TERRITORIES. HE HAS
BEEN RECEPTIVE TO FRIENDLY APPROACHES FROM US EMBASSY
OFFICIALS IN THE PAST. THE AMBASSADOR IS ACCESSIBLE
AND COOPERATIVE AND IS A VALUABLE SOURCE OF RELIABLE
INFORMATION ON THE ATTITUDES AND SENSIBILITIES OF THE
PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT.

INTELLIGENT, WELL-INFORMED AND DECISIVE IN HIS OFFICIAL
RELATIONS, THEMIDO IS CALM AND UNEMOTIONAL AND CAN BE
REASONED WITH. LIKE MOST PORTUGUESE OFFICIALS, HE
SEEMS COMPARATIVELY HUMORLESS. HE ENJOYS CONCERT
MUSIC AND IS AN OWNER AND FANCIER OF FINE DOGS. HE
IS MARRIED BUT HAS NO CHILDREN. THE AMBASSADOR
SPEAKS FRENCH, SPANISH AND EXCELLENT ENGLISH.

5. MARIA HELENA DE SPINOLA: MRS. SPINOLA IS A VERY
ATTRACTIVE WOMAN WITH A PLEASANT PERSONALITY. BLONDE
AND FAIR SKINNED, SHE APPEARS TO BE SEVERAL YEARS
YOUNGER THAN HER HUSBAND. MRS. SPINOLA TAKES AN ACTIVE
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INTEREST IN HER HUSBANDS WORK BUT DOES NOT DISCUSS
POLITICS IN PUBLIC OR IN SMALL GATHERINGS. WHILE
IN PORTUGUESE GUINEA SHE PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN
PROMOTING BETTER SCHOOLS FOR THE NATIVES, AND SPENT
MANY HOURS VISITING MILITARY HOSPITALS. BROWN

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